Scots. II.-27—100,000—21-5-48.

Dept (1948) Department.

My SERIES.

G.O. No. 4412

Dated 26-8-48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Second Periodical Conference to review the progress at Ministerial level - Proceedings of the meeting held on 14-8-48 communicated.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract.

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Second Periodical Conference to review the Progress at Ministerial level - Proceedings of the meeting held on 1-8-48 - Communicated.

Development Department

G.O.Ms.No. 4412, dated 26th August'48.

ORDER:

A copy of the summary of proceedings of the first session of the second periddical Conference held on 1-8-48 for reviewing the Progress of the Grow More Food Schemes in all departments is communicated to the Director of Agriculture, Director of Industries and Commerce, Director of Animal Husbandry, Board of Revenue, Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and Director of Public Health for information and necessary action.

2. A copy of the proceedings is also communicated to Revenue, Public Works, Food and Finance Departments for information and necessary action.

3. Irrigation and Fisheries Schemes will be reviewed at a separate session to be convened shortly. Proceedings of that meeting will be communicated in due course after the session is held.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor)

W.R.S. Satthianadhan,
Secy. to Government.

To
The Director of Agriculture,
The Director of Industries and Commerce.
The Director of Animal Husbandry.
The Board of Revenue,
The Director of Public Health.
The Registrar of Cooperative Societies.
The Chief Engineer (Irrigation),
The Inspector of Municipal Councils & Local Boards,
The Food Department
The Revenue "
The Finance "
The Public Works "

Copy to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, with reference to their letter No.3108 Q.M.F./48, dated 10-8-48.
" to the Regional Food Commissioner, Whitle Lodge, 48, Harrington Road, Chetput, Kilpauk P.O., Madras.
Copy to S & F Deveopment.

(Forwarded By Order)

x x
Superintendent.

p.t.o.

Summary of the Proceedings of the Second Conference for the review of Grow More Food Schemes at Ministerial Level, Held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, the 1st August 1948 in the Cabinet Room at Fort St. George.

PRESENT:

The Hon. Sri O.P. Ramaswami Reddiar (Chairman)
The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon,
The Hon. Sri K. Kurmayya.
The Director of Agriculture.
The Joint -do-
The Registrar of Cooperative Societies.
The Inspector of Municipal Councils & Local Boards
The Director of Industries and Commerce.
The Asst. Director of Public Health (Senior)
The Joint of Animal Husbandry.
The Secretary, Board of Revenue.
Secretary to Government, Food Department
Dy. Finance
Dy Revenue
Development

Well Subsidy Schemes: The Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue (Mr. C.R. Ramakrishnan) explained the Well Subsidy Scheme under the charge of the Board of Revenue. The Hon. the Premier remarked that the progress in regard to the wells was very slow and large sums of money were lapsing. He wanted to know in how many wells there was actually water for the purpose of irrigation. He felt that the officers of the Revenue Department were not taking care to inspect the wells to see whether they were useful for irrigation purposes. The Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue said that the Government have sanctioned special staff for the purpose. The Hon'ble Premier was of the opinion that the existing staff itself could do the work and that no extra staff need be sanctioned for the purpose. He stated that the mere issuing of circulars from headquarters was not enough. When Government orders were issued, the officers must see that the orders were carried out. The Hon'ble Premier also suggested that some preference must be given to digging of wells in wet areas also instead of confining their attention to dry areas alone. This, he stated, would facilitate cultivation in wet areas if the monsoon failed. He suggested that particulars should be called for from the Collectors and other Officers concerned about the dimensions of the well so far dug, whether there was water in those wells and if so to what depth and whether they were really useful for Grow More Food purposes. In case there were wells in which there was no water, he suggested that further sums must be spent on those wells for getting water, for, he felt that the original money spent on the wells would be a waste if they were not further deepened and made useful. It was suggested to the Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue, that a questionnaire

might be issued to the Collectors, asking for particulars regarding the dimensions etc., of the wells dug under the Grow More Food Campaign and the depth of water in them.

The Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue agreed ~~x~~ to call for the information and submit it to Government. He said that the work would receive more attention after Mr. T.S. Ramachandran, I.C.S., takes charge as Special Officer ~~for~~ for the Wells Scheme.

The question of the employment of water diviners was then discussed and it was felt that they would not be very useful. The Joint Director of Agriculture stated that they were getting an instrument for divining both oil and ~~water~~ water and that it would cost about Rs.700 for a depth of 500 feet. The Hon'ble Premier doubted whether these instruments would be useful

MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS:

The Hon. the Premier said that he was urging on the Government of India for a grant of Rs. fifteen crores for minor irrigation works and repairs to existing works. He was hopeful of getting at least five crores for the purpose. He stressed the need, therefore, for taking up such works immediately and finishing them within the allotted period, as otherwise, the sums allotted would lapse. He thought that each Department could be allotted a certain amount of money by means of a system of block grants and they must be held responsible for spending that money within the stipulated time. This would avoid delay in getting financial sanctions. ~~The~~ It was agreed that in any event a modification of the existing procedure was necessary in order to expedite matters.

AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES:

The Director of Agriculture explained the scheme relating to his Department. He stressed the need for maintaining a high degree of purity of seeds and distributing the same to the farmers from a nucleus farm in each district. He said that the ordinary Demonstrators were not quite conversant with all the strains of seed and so he wanted 38 special Crop Assistants to be appointed for the purpose. The Hon. Premier pointed out that money was being wasted in appointing more and more officers, that not much real work was being done and that the ryot got very little benefit. He suggested that the existing personnel should be utilized for these purposes. He wanted that it should be left to the ryots to produce pure seeds and that prizes should be awarded to the ryots producing pure seeds. He suggested that some kind of incentive should ~~it~~ be shown to the ryots for producing good seeds. He also felt that the ryots should be given refresher courses in agriculture. Side by side, they must also be shown the practical way of doing things. The Hon. Premier pointed out that the ryots were under the impression that the Agricultural Department was spending more money for cultivation purposes in its farms than an ordinary ryot could afford. This idea should be dispelled from the minds

of the ryots. He wanted that the ryots should be taught the scientific aspect of agriculture and made to realise the benefits. Finally, he said that the existing staff should be fully utilized instead of appointing more men.

DISTRIBUTION OF IRON IMPLEMENTS:

The Hon. Premier referred to the complaints he had received during his tour in different districts about the high prices charged by the Department for share-points. He pointed out that the price varied from Rs.0-6-6 to Rs.1-13-0 and the charges for sharpening a share-point was four annas in some districts. He felt very strongly that there should be no such disparity in prices between one district and another and that the ryots were charged a very high price which was more than the cost price of raw material. The Joint Director of Agriculture explained that sometimes it so happened that materials of certain specifications were available only with certain stock-holders and naturally, owing to transport charges, the prices of material varied from place to place. To the price of ~~mx~~ the material the fabrication charge was added. If the prices were to be uniform in all the places, the Government would have to bear the transport charges. It was brought to notice that the Government of India were not willing to increase the number of stock-holders and for including the co-operative societies among the stock-holders for standard iron and steel. The Director of Industries ~~and~~ suggested an equilisation fund in order to have a uniform price in all districts. He also said that the needs of the various districts might be consolidated and a quota be obtained from the Government of India. The Joint Director of Agriculture strongly pressed for a separate quota for Agricultural Department which could be planned direct on the producers. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture pointed out that innumerable representations had been made to the Government of India to allow Iron and Steel for Agricultural purposes at Column (1) rates and they were in vain. The Hon'ble Premier said that all the correspondence might be sent to him in ~~order~~ that he might write a personal letter to the Government of India. He also suggested that the actual receipts of iron and steel, fertilizers etc. from the Government of India might be published every month so that the public might know the exact position.

CHEMICAL FERTILISERS:

Proceeding, the Director of Agriculture explained the important schemes he had submitted to Government. In regard to the state Trading Schemes for the purphase and sale of manures, he stated that the Government of India had promised them 50,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate. But, they had actually received only 23,000 tons out of the Government of India pool. From outside the pool, they hoped to get about 10,000 tons from Messrs. The Fertilizers and Chemicals (Travancore)Ltd.,

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which was this Government's share of two-fifths of that factory's production. It was pointed out that the price paid to the Travancore factory was higher than the pool price of the Government of India. But, the Hon.Premier pointed out that as the planting season has already begun, it would be advisable to get the maximum direct from the Travancore factory, even though at a higher price than getting it through the pool.

GROUNDNUT CAKE:

About Groundnut cake, the Hon.Premier thought that the millers and other traders had sufficient stocks of groundnut cake with them and as the Government were not purchasing them, they were gradually going to the black-market. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture suggested the re-introduction of control and also an increase in the price of groundnut cake, say from Rs.10-8-0 to Rs. Rs.13-0-0 per bag. The Deputy Secretary, Development Department pointed out that the increase in the price of groundnut oil was not proportionate to the increase in the price of the kernel and that the price of kernel must be controlled. It was felt that a rise in the price of groundnut cake alone would not tend to increase production as there was no parity between kernel, oil and cake. The Deputy Secretary, Development Department, also suggested an alternative system of calling for competitive tenders for the annual supply of groundnut cake to the Agricultural Department. He pointed out that this would stabilise price and ensure supplies.

The Hon. Premier then pointed out that in the Departmental godowns there was shortage of ten to fifteen pounds in each bag of groundnut cake. He suggested that the higher officers should make surprise visits and check the stocks in the godowns. He thought that any amount of mere punishment of subordinates would not be useful and wanted that the Officers should be more vigilant.

COMPOST MANUFACTURE:

The Director of Agriculture pointed out that there was a production of fiftytwo thousands of tons of compost in the Province and that only about 20,000 tons were sold. He said that there was a prejudice against the use of compost. He also suggested that the quality of the compost should be improved by the use of mechanical seivers in order to remove pieces of stone, glass etc. The Hon. Premier suggested that proper advertisement was necessary for the selling of the compost. He explained how compost was being manufactured in China and other places.--- In China, Gypsum was added to neutralise the smell. He said that the method adopted in some of the Municipalities was not correct as the layers of night soil should not be more than 2 inches deep for every layer of rubbish. He wanted the Director of Agriculture to send him a list of the places where the compost was available for sale so that he might inform people about it whenever they came to him for manure. The Director of Agriculture suggested that there should be a separate officer in charge of compost manufacture and a Provincial Compost Development Committee should be set up, as proposed by the Compost Conference recently held at Nagpur.

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MILLETS:

The Director of Agriculture then referred to the comprehensive scheme for the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds of paddy, millets etc. He said that the progress made was very satisfactory. Here also the Hon. Premier suggested that prizes might be awarded to the ryots who gave the best strain of millet and other seeds. He said that more attention should be paid to millets.

The Director of Agriculture explained the location and working of the various Millet Research Stations. He pointed out that he has sent up a scheme to Government for the establishment of millet breeding stations. The Hon. Premier suggested that Periyakulam one of the places suggested for the stations, was not suitable. The Deputy Secretary, Development said that the scheme was pending discussion by the Hon. Premier with the Director of Agriculture and that he would re-submit the file for orders

CONTROL OF PESTS AND DISEASES:

The Director of Agriculture referred to his proposals for extra staff for plant protection and seed development and suggested that they might be sanctioned immediately. In this connection the Hon. Premier pointed out that the charts showing pests and diseases of crops and their treatment should be in the regional languages. For purposes of spraying, the Hon. Premier suggested that one or two air compression sprayers might be got for use in large tracts. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture said that the scheme for appointment of Entomology and Mycology staff was put up as desired by the Hon. Premier. The Hon. Premier said that the proposal might be sent to him for orders.

POULTRY FARMING:

The Director of Agriculture stated that at present poultry work was done at 5 Agricultural Research Stations and that he had sent up his proposals for extending the scheme to 17 more stations. He said that he had also sent up a scheme for development of bee-hiving.

FRUIT FARMING:

The scheme for the opening of research stations for nurseries and orchards was long ago submitted to Government for sanction. The Director of Agriculture complained that nothing has so far been heard about it. He was informed by the Deputy Secretary, Development, that the proposals were pending with the Government of India or the Standing Finance Committee. The Director of Agriculture said that if fruit research is to be carried on in the Agricultural farms at least 50 acres of land would be necessary for the purpose. In the course of the discussion, Hon. Premier remarked that nursery farms should be opened in all districts.

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VEGETABLES:

The Hon. Premier wanted some place to be earmarked in every Government farm for research in vegetable cultivation. He also suggested that the villager should be made to cultivate more vegetables. He deplored that villagers were going to towns and buying their vegetables.

The Director of Agriculture stated that he had a plan for establishing a vegetable research station, one in Tamilnad and another in Andhradesa and that the scheme would be coming up before the Government shortly.

FODDER GRASS:

The Director of Agriculture stated that experiments were being carried out for growing a kind of drought-resisting grass. The Hon. Premier suggested that the Hosur Cattle Farm should grow its own fodder and develop different kinds of fodder grass. The Joint Director of Animal Husbandry said that fodder was grown on about 110 acres in Hosur. The Director of Agriculture stated that he would be submitting a scheme for converting the panchayat forests into permanent grazing grounds. It was doubted whether this was feasible.

The Hon. Premier suggested that there should be planting of more fodder trees. A list of such trees should be published in the Journal "Mezhichelvam." In this connection he also suggested that more financial assistance might be given to the Madras Agricultural Journal published at Coimbatore.

COLD STORAGE:

The Hon. Premier wanted that there should be a cold storage arrangement in the City on a big scale with different compartments for fruits, fish, meat etc., and that it should be let to people on hire. The Deputy Secretary, Development said that there was an Army unit at Avadi and that the question of getting it from the Military was being examined.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SCHEMES:

The Joint Director of Animal Husbandry then explained the schemes relating to this Department. He pointed out that he had sent up his schemes to the Government for sanction and they were pending with the Government. The Hon. Premier that there should be a cattle breeding station for every three districts in the Province.

Referring to the establishment of dairy farms, the Hon. Premier said that they should be self-supporting, the initial capital outlay being of course met by the Government. The Cooperative Department should also organise cattle breeding societies. He said that fodder farms should be organised. He said that he had asked the Corporation of Madras to put up a scheme for growing fodder in a large tract of about 2,500 acres, which would feed

~~feed~~ 30,000 cows and these would provide adequate milk for the whole city of Madras. He said that in Russia even sun-flower was used as fodder.

There there was ad a discussion about the improvement of stud bulls and cattle in general and the Hon. Premier wanted to evolve a new variety out of the Sindhi, Kangayam and Mysore breeds. The Joint Director of Animal Husbandry said that artificial insemination was very effective but that competent technical supervision was required for the work. He also pointed out that in this country cattle are wanted for milk and draught while in Western Countries they are also required for beef and so the selection for crossing must be carefully made. He also referred to the scheme put up by him for breeding of rams and sheep. The Deputy Secretary, Development Department said that orders on the scenemes would be passed very soon.

The conference adjourned SINE DIE.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

PSR. 7-9-53.